



A+ Scholarship reimbursement for Spring 2015 semester

In December the Missouri Department of Higher Education notified postsecondary institutions and high schools of the decision to reduce tuition reimbursement through the A+ Scholarship Program by one credit hour or the 37.5 clock hour equivalent. The decision was made based on the best projections available at that time; however, actual expenditure numbers for the Fall 2014 semester were still pending.

Now that final numbers have been received, department staff has determined that funding for the A+ Program is sufficient to reimburse students for the remaining credit hour or 37.5 clock hours.

The department decided to reassess the situation in mid-spring based on actual Fall 2014 expenditures and estimated payment information for the Spring 2015 semester.

Two things have had an impact on the reassessment. First, the fall and spring data collected indicates that the rate of program growth is somewhat less than original projections. Second, the department received a larger than anticipated amount of returned program funds, resulting in additional funds being available for disbursement. Funds previously distributed to higher education institutions are returned when student recipients become ineligible to receive the funds due to dropped classes, changes in eligibility status, and other circumstances. The funds that are returned can be redistributed to other, eligible students.

While this decision means that full funding is available to cover the current year, it should not be taken to mean that program funding issues have been resolved. It is possible the credit hour reduction experience of this year may be necessary for the 2015-2016 academic year. The department continues to monitor the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget as it moves through the Missouri General Assembly and will keep higher education institutions and high schools informed as more information about next year's funding becomes available.